













Gettysburg Compiler. THE FARMER. THE DEPTH OF PUT MANURE.

One of the advances of modern agricultural science is in the knowledge of how the roots of plants feed. At one time a root was a root, and that was all; but it is now well known that the roots are of two classes, only one of which has much to do with furnishing food for the plant. These are commonly known as fibrous. They work during the season in taking up the water and the salts of the soil. With the development of the leaves there is a new activity in the root fibres growth, and many of the old ones die. The novel point in modern knowledge is that these fibrous or feeding roots are always near the surface of the soil. When the knowledge comes the necessity of modifying old practices of manuring. When it is dug down deep into the soil, or plowed deep under, it is a great measure wasted. The root policy now is to keep it as near the surface as possible, so as to be so much exposed to waiving water. The soil in the best agriculturalists has been gradually coming to this for years past, without knowing exactly the reason why such good results. Surface manuring has been found in many instances, superior to the old plan of digging in, and has found many successful advocates. We do not know that we can heartily endorse the plan as a general rule of leaving the manure to be entirely on the surface to the action of the hot bleaching sun; but to leave it merely harrowed in so that it may be just where the fibrous roots can reach it, is a very good thing, and has been found as good in practice as the considerations we have noted would lead us to expect.

**BUTINO A HORSE.** First, acquire a knowledge of horses, so as to know a good horse when you see one that is a model. There is more money lost, and more honest men are defrauded in buying and selling horses than in any other article of the farm. For many years, I have had to do with all sorts and shapes of horses, from the pony to the shaggy, and the greatest weight in the best blood is the animal for service. A horse weighing from 1,100 to 1,400 pounds is large enough for farm work. You must understand what you want, and know how to get it. You must know the standing points of a horse. These are: A good lively eye, inclined to hazel, and a pleasant countenance; a rather back and open foot; shoulders set rather back, and no objection if it is slightly crooked; the proper shape of the hindquarters depends on what you wish the horse to perform. The prevailing idealities are blindness or weak eyes, ragged, spavin, hooded, carped or thorough gaited, etc., all of which an expert observer will detect. The most difficult to detect, as that depends upon the treatment the animal has had for the previous. The thumps, or palpitations of the heart, may be detected easily by moving and exciting the horse, and stopping him suddenly. In purchasing a horse, it depends upon how he has been used until he is six years old; if found then, he is good for twelve or twenty years' service. Judging the age of a horse by his mouth is very uncertain. You can tell to a certainty within one year until he is five years old, and you must judge from general appearance. Some judges rely on the teeth, but some horses never have any teeth; and some horses have teeth of marbles have teeth as horses that have none. Some men will tell you that they know the age of a horse by the jaw, or the teeth, or the eye, or the points of his tail. You might as well say that you know the age of a man by the wrinkles in his face. The wearing of the teeth depends upon the general health and vigor of the animal. Teeth decayed, discolored, and falling out, are signs of age. When you trade, do not ask a neighbor, as every man ought to know his own business. If there is much talking to be done, let the other do it. What you say, let it be to the point, and stand to it.

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